

Rules. On this side we want a balanced budget. I believe a lot of Members on that side want a balanced budget, too. They want it honestly scored, and that means by the Congressional Budget Office. We are tired of smoke and mirrors and phony numbers and the CR that we had last time. A lot of us were optimistic that something was going to happen, and it did not. That is why we are in the situation that we are in today.

Mr. Speaker, I reminded a colleague of mine earlier this afternoon that I was one of those who voted against the Bush budget back in 1990. I remember being down in the White House and meeting with a number of his advisers, and I said then that his assumptions and statistics that he was showing us in 1990 were wrong, because he told us that if that budget passed in 1990, and it did, despite my opposition, that we would have a surplus in 1995 of \$65 billion. The OMB was off \$225 billion.

We are tired of that. We are tired of trying to hoodwink the American public in terms of making tough decisions, and when the pie is finally taken out of the oven, it is not done. We want it done. The end product every one of us on this side wants and a good number on your side, and I hope including yourself: that pie done in a balanced fashion by the year 2002.

One of the things we are trying to do now is to get the sides together, put them in a room, lock the door, call out for Domino's Pizza on whatever you are going to do, and not let them out until we get a deal.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. UPTON. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, just to make two points on the scoring, I do not think the American people are sitting out there having dinner and saying they are talking about a score by OMB rather than CBO. But CBO was off \$135 billion. I will agree with you, get some people together that want to balance this budget. I am for balancing this budget. But we are being told they are not going to pass a budget in this House unless it is Democrats that go your way. You say, "You do it our way, or it will be no way," and that is no way to negotiate.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. UPTON. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman about the point, I think there are probably a lot of people out there eating dinner and probably some of them watching C-Span, and I doubt if very few of them understand all the scoring. But I will tell you one thing the American people understand. I think it is reflected in votes that have been made on this floor throughout the year. The fact that we passed a balanced budget amendment with 300 votes, it included a lot of Democrats, and maybe some of the people who are sitting here this evening. We passed a balanced budget resolution with the

vast majority of Democrats voting with us.

The reason is that our people who are elected to these jobs, whether they be Republicans or Democrats, know that the American people want a balanced budget. The reason is because of the fact they balance their budget year in and year out, they know how to do it, they look at their ledgers, they see how much money is coming in, and they say, "Why can't you do this in Washington? What is the problem? Why do we have a \$5 trillion debt?" Because we have overspent.

So the average person watching television out there, eating dinner, for those people that are, they understand how this works.

Mr. HEFNER. If the gentleman will yield further, Mr. Speaker, I am not disagreeing with him. But it boils down to this: we can have negotiations, but it cannot be "My way or no way."

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That is no way to negotiate.

Mr. UPTON. Reclaiming my time, I think that we can reach a bipartisan accord. The vote that we had here 2 nights ago, it passed big time: 7 years, CBO numbers, most of us, again. I think only 40 Members voted against it. I think that there is room for a bipartisan agreement, and there are a number of us that want to do that.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I do not mean to sound sarcastic, but if we could put together a budget, get to a budget in 7 years scored by CBO, is the gentleman at liberty to deliver some Republican votes if it met with your approval?

Mr. UPTON. I believe so, and I think that is what we all ought to be working here tonight to try and do, and tomorrow night and the next night, until it is done.

Mr. HEFNER. Because we understand and have been told that the only budget we are going to get will be a Republican budget with enough votes over here to override a veto. If we cannot get some support to where we can come as a bipartisan group, we have very serious reservations about it. But I am asking if you and I could sit down as honest brokers.

LET THE LEADERS LEAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to come down here on the floor and say that all week I have stayed away from the floor. I felt that there was really nothing that could be said at this point in time, that the American people mostly, those that are fortunate enough to be with their families and about to enjoy a holiday with shopping and getting ready for Christmas and trying to have a family occasion where there could be happiness and good

cheer, that they probably thought that we in Washington, Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, that we could not get our job done.

They pay us well, they send us to Washington to represent them, and they would like us to carry out our duties. Yet we hear this more or less "blame game." I do not think that is going on in the country. I think they are saying, all of us are not doing our job.

I reached a point of frustration this afternoon, listening to the conversation on the floor, because things get mixed, what is happening here. We have appropriation bills that are passed on this floor and on the floor of the Senate that go to the President and are signed, and those bills fund, through taxpayers' money, the various agencies of the U.S. Government. Six of these bills have not been finished.

That has happened in other years, and then we have what is called a continuing resolution. It comes to both floors and is passed, and then the problems within the different bills are hammered out and worked out, and then eventually we have an appropriations bill. Of course, that is not what happened 2 weeks ago and that is not what is happening now.

The continuing resolution does not pass and, therefore, those agencies stop, and the result is that 200,000 people cannot go to work.

I do not understand it. This is not the budget. The budget is another whole process. The budget, there are a lot of differences, differences about values, differences about priorities, differences about the budget of the United States of America and about the size of the Federal Government. That is all in the budget.

But the continuing resolution is different, and I do not see why we hold the continuing resolution hostage to the budget.

We as Members of Congress are fortunate. We have an office down here and at home. In that office, I think each and every one of us works very hard on casework, and yet we are saying to 200,000 Federal workers, we are not letting you go to work. I just think that goes against everything I have ever worked for.

We are saying to people who want to go to work at the Smithsonian and other museums and our art galleries, at our monuments that we are so proud of, at our parks that are so beautiful, no, you cannot go. Yet, as Members of Congress, we work very hard so that people who want to come to Washington can get their tickets, can go to the Washington Monument and the Mint, yet we have closed all of these. It is beyond me.

So I would just like to say tonight, can we not pass a continuing resolution, open up the Government to the people who pay for it, the citizens of the United States of America, and not hold it hostage to the budget of the

Federal Government which has different philosophical thinking and priorities. I just do not understand why we do not respect our Federal worker more.

Some of us have traveled in other countries; we have read about other countries, we have dealt with other countries, and we know that their federal governments, their government workers are not respected to the extent they should be because they have not been treated correctly. They work at a lower rate of pay, they do not get the respect that they deserve over the years, and as a result, they do not function like our Federal Government has always functioned and its workers.

Our workers are proud of what they do, they go to work in the morning, they do a full day's work, they go home at night, they are with their families and they are very, very good citizens. They should not be put in the vise of this budget resolution.

Tomorrow we should have a continuing resolution on this floor and on the Senate floor, and our Government should go on.

Then I hear people saying, well, what is happening about the budget; and it is said, you know, that there is a group that does not want the budget, the new freshman class, they are saying, no, you cannot have this particular budget unless it has what we want in it. you cannot do it that way.

First I heard a young man down here talking tonight and he was talking about the President of the United States, the President, another President, a former President saying, "The buck stops here." We did have a former President that said that. But they are not letting the buck stop here with this President.

Yesterday we had the President of the Senate, Mr. DOLE, and the speaker of the House, Mr. GINGRICH, go to the White House. All of the television cameras were on, and the two gentleman walked in and sat down with the President and they began some discussion; they came out, and it looked like we were going to have some progress, and we all felt so good.

Yet today we hear that, no, the 73 freshmen are not exactly satisfied with what happened there.

Well, you cannot have it both ways. You cannot have it: "The buck stops here," and the: "We want to all be involved." The negotiations, any negotiations, breaking it down to a smaller group with only the leaders. In Dayton, they sent the Presidents of those countries and they sat down at the table and they figured out what was going on. They could not bring all of the countries with them.

So what I am saying is why do we not all step out of the way and decide what is happening and come back and vote on it. Let us let the leaders lead.

PRESIDENT SHOULD GET SERIOUS ABOUT BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Michigan [Mr. CHRYSLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, 31 days ago, President Clinton committed to balancing the budget in a signed contract with Congress that stated: "The President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than fiscal year 2002 as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office * * *." Since that time, however, it has become more apparent that this President has no intention of living up to the agreement.

Last October, the 104th Congress passed a balanced budget, one that finally reforms the Nation's welfare system, provides pro-family and pro-jobs tax relief, and saves Medicare from bankruptcy. For 26 years our Federal Government has continued deficit spending, crippling the Nation with a national debt of nearly \$5 trillion and jeopardizing the future prosperity of our Nation. This is our last, best hope to do the right thing for the future of our children and grandchildren.

The President claimed he could not agree to our budget and used his Constitutional authority to veto it. This is his right, but in exercising his power to veto he has a moral obligation to present the American people with an honest alternative.

After 4 weeks we are still waiting for him to present us with a budget that balances in accordance with the terms agreed to last month.

Instead of a comprehensive budget proposal, we have received press releases and rhetoric. Instead of negotiating in good faith to seek an agreeable compromise, the President and his allies produced and aired commercials bashing our proposal even before sitting down at the negotiating table. The President talks about compromise but in reality has only engaged in confrontation and demagoguery.

Last Friday, President Clinton submitted yet another budget that comes no where close to balance in 7 years according to the honest, nonpartisan CBO. In 2002, when our budget would produce a surplus, his plan remains at least \$75 billion short. This is the same "we'll get to it some day" mentality that has overshadowed this issue for decades and left us in the current deficit mess we have today.

When put to a vote before this House, the President's budget did not get one single vote—not one Republican vote, not one Democratic vote.

The day before the vote on the President's budget, the House voted overwhelmingly, by a vote of 351 to 40, to reaffirm our commitment to a 7-year balanced budget as determined by the Congressional Budget Office signed by December 31, 1995.

Taken together, that should be a clear signal to the President to get serious about a balanced budget.

Today, however, we get another sign that the President still has not gotten serious. Today the President once again broke his word and broke off negotiations, continuing the partial shutdown of the Federal Government.

I, for one, will not support another continuing resolution until the President lives up to the agreement he made law.

In 1992, President Clinton campaigned on a balanced budget, ending welfare as we know it, and providing tax relief for America's middle class working families—our proposal simply follows through on what this President could not. We have kept our word to the American people and attempted to negotiate in good faith for an agreement both sides could live with. Has the President? Strip away the rhetoric and there is little evidence he truly wants a balanced budget.

NO LINKAGE BETWEEN CR AND BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, let us make no mistake about this. It is the Republicans who are shutting down the Government. Clearly and simply, the Republicans, by refusing to vote for a continuing resolution to keep the Government open, are shutting down the Government. They have the majority of votes here and in the Senate, they could easily keep the Government open by voting for a clean continuing resolution with no strings attached, no blackmail attached, and the Government would open and 250,000 Federal workers would go back to work, and then we could negotiate a budget.

But no, they will not do that, because they are trying to link the two issues together; they are saying they will vote for no continuing resolution until there is a 7-year balanced budget.

Now, I want everybody to understand that there is no linkage to keeping the Government open with a continuing resolution and a balanced budget. The Republicans are the ones who are linking it. The reason we are in trouble in the first place is because they did not do their job.

October 1, 1995 was the start of the new fiscal year, and there are 13 appropriations bills which the Republicans were supposed to have sent to the President of the United States, and by that time they had sent only 3. So it is their fault that the Government could not continue and that the Government had to shut down; and the only way you can keep the Government open under those circumstances, when the majority party does not do its job by sending the appropriations bills to the President, is by passing a continuing resolution. They are refusing to do that.

All of this talk and rhetoric about balancing the budget in 7 years is a separate issue from the continuing resolution and from the Government shutdown. The President of the United